

## Renewable Energy Opportunities in Montana



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## Overview

### Renewable Energy Opportunities

Conservation/Efficiency  
Combined Heat and Power  
Wind  
Solar Electric  
Methane  
Woody Biomass

### Barriers

### Possible Actions

## What We Use

Total Electric Consumption in Montana  
14,016 GWh Annually (MT DEQ 2005)

### Nameplate Capacity

50% Coal  
47% Hydro  
3% Wind

Percentages Updated to Reflect Judith Gap and Great Falls

## Conservation/Efficiency

Generally  
Most Important  
Least Sexy  
Cost Effective

Problem: High Capital Cost  
Need for More Education

4,615 GWh potential in Montana by 2020, at  
2 cents per kwh, that is 23.9% of the  
energy we use -

According to Western Resource Advocates "Assessing the  
Potential for Diversified Energy Resources in the Interior West"

## Combined Heat and Power

Distributed - On homes and  
businesses

Compare 35% efficiency of central  
station coal to 80%+ efficiency of  
distributed CHP

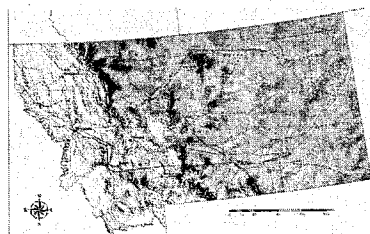
Can be biomass fueled

Problem: High Capital Cost

1,092 MW of potential CHP in  
Montana - Estimated 4,782 GWh

## Wind

144 MW+ Currently in the state (468 GWh)  
Estimated 900 MW under development (3,075 GWh)  
Potential (WRA) 1020,000 GWh/yr



## Wind

Distributed – On homes and businesses

Central Station Wind

Problems: High Capital Cost

Transmission Constraints

Intermittent Resource

Load Following Hard to Get

Tax Incentives Herky-Jerky

## Solar Electric

Distributed – On homes and businesses

Potential 101,000 GWh Annual (WRA)

Most Utilities offer Some Kind of Net Metering

Problems: High Capital Cost

Other Countries and States offer More Incentive (69% of world supply goes to Germany and Japan, 9% to US)

Silicon in Short Supply

## Methane

Distributed – Waste Water, Animal Waste, Food Waste, landfills

Potential (?) GWh Annual

Some WWTPs use methane for heating

Problems: High Capital Cost

## Woody Biomass

Distributed – On homes and businesses  
fuels for Schools

Potential 6,000 GWh Annual (WRA)

Technologies: Direct Combustion, Gasification, Pyrolysis,

Problems: High Capital Cost

New??? Technologies

## Opportunity Summary

Total Electric Consumption in Montana

14,016 GWh Annually

Conservation 4,615 GWh

CHP 4,782 GWh

Wind 1,020,000 GWh

Solar 101,000 GWh

Woody Biomass 6,000 GWh

Potential 81 times as great as current consumption

## Benefits of Renewables and Conservation

- No Emissions
- No Fuel Use
- No Water Use
- No Wastes
- No Water Pollution
- More Local Jobs
- High Wage Jobs
- Second Crop for Farmers
- Lower Energy Bills

### Barriers

- High Capital Cost
- High Cost of Fossil Fuel is Hidden
- Failure to Account for Environmental Benefits of Renewable Energy
- Some Technologies not Fully Developed
- Transmission Constraints
- Intermittent Resource - Firming

### Possible Actions

- Increase Incentives for Efficiency Improvements and Renewable Energy Generation
- Better Educate People on Benefits and Techniques of Conservation and Renewables
- Quantify Economic Benefit Value of Renewables so the Economists Won't Ignore Them
- Develop New Sources of Load Following/Reserve Electric Capacity